

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - UNDP: EVALUATION

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1. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM: IN NICARAGUA, UNDP RES REP IS DEFACTO OR FORMAL COUNTRY REP FOR ALL UN AGENCIES EXCEPT UNICEF AND WHO. RES REP RELATES TO SENIOR ADVISERS FOR WFP AND FAO, WHO ARE STATIONED IN OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THIS SYSTEM WORKS FAIRLY WELL FOR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

IF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN A CERTAIN SECTOR IS SIGNIFICANT, IN-COUNTRY ADVISORY EXPERTISE IN THAT AREA (E.G., AGRICULTURE IN CASE OF NICARAGUA) IS MOST HELPFUL TO UNDP RES REP FOR PROGRAMMING PURPOSES. ACROSS THE BOARD GREATER FIELD AUTONOMY
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OF UN AGENCIES SEEMS MOST INEFFICIENT APPROACH OVERALL AND USAID

WOULD SUPPORT STRENGTHENING UNDP RES REP AS COORDINATOR, WITH ADVISORY TECHNICIANS APPROPRIATE TO COUNTRY PROGRAM CONTENT. IBRD-UNDP RELATIONSHIP HAS BECOME MORE COMPLEMENTARY WITH UNDP PROGRAMMING TA IN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND EDUCATION AREAS IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH IBRD LOAN PLANS. HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT OF IBRD PARTICIPATION IN UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS.

2. COORDINATION: NICARAGUA PLANNING OFFICE (NPO) IN PRINCIPLE COORDINATES ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. IN FACT, NPO IS SOMEWHAT LESS AGGRESSIVE THAN IT COULD BE AND TRNDS TO CONSOLIDATE DATA RATHER THAN GIVE GUIDANCE TO INTERNATIONAL DONORS. NPO IS DEFINITELY THE UN COUNTERPART WITHIN HOST GOVERNMENT AS NPO NEGOTIATES COUNTRY PORGRAMS WITH UNDP AND TECHNICALLY PRESENTS PROGRAM TO UNDP FOR FUNDING. RECENT GON EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN NPO BY CREATING OFFICE OF PROJECTS MAY GENEGXTE GREATER COORDINATION IN FUTURE, BUT CURRENTLY DONORS EXCHANGE PROGRAMS INFORMALLY, NOTE AREAS OF SPECIFIC COMPLEMENTARITY AND UNDERTAKE AD HOC DISCUSSIONS ON THOSE AREAS (E.G., AID, UNDP, WHO, IDB AND IBRD ON POTABLE WATER).

3. FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS: EFFECT OF CUTBACKS IN 1976 HAVE BASICALLY HAD EFFECT OF ELIMINATING OR LETTING DIE THOSE MARGINAL PROJECTS WHICH WERE POLITICALLY HARD TO END (I.E., TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CIVIL AVIATION, METEREOLGY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING) OR NOT TO EXTEND CONTRACTS IN AREAS WHERE LESS THAN EFFICIENT USE, IN UNDP'S EYES, HAS BEEN MADE OF EXPERTS (I.E., URBAN PLANNING, WHERE TECHNICIANS RATHER THAN ADVISERS TO HIGH-LEVEL COUNTERPARTS). SOME CUTBACKS HAVE BEEN MADE IN MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES FUNDS ALSO BUT GENERAL 1976 IMPACT OF REDUCED FUNDS HAS NOT DESTROYED CORE OF UNDP PROGRAM. FOR 1977 HOWEVER, RES REP EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO FUND POSSIBLY ONLY HALF OF PROJECTS PROPOSED, AND THIS COULD CUT INTO CONCENTRATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT. SPECIFIC REDUCTIONS NOT YET DECIDED.

4. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING: NEW CP PRESENTED BY GON AND EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED IN JUNE BY GENERAL COUNCIL PENDING FUNDING AVAILABILITY. PROCESS IMPROVED THIS TIME COMPARED TO PRIOR CP IN SENSE OF DELIBERATE AND SUCCESSFUL CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES IN SECTORS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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5. REVIEW PROCESS: RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE USE MADE OF TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM, WHICH INCLUDES PROGRESS REPORT WITH CONCRETE DETAILS OF HOST COUNTRY CONSIDERATIONS, PERSONNEL AND UN PERFOR-

MANCE. HOWEVER, WHERE GON AGENCY INVOLVED DID NOT GIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO REVIEW PROCESS, LITTLE SEEMS TO BE GAINED.

6. USAID AND UNDP REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT AND ARE AWARE OF PROGRAMS THROUGH EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS. CURRENT UNDP DOCUMENT ORGANIZED BY SECTORS, FACILITATING COORDINATION WITH AID FORMAT.

7. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT: UN HAS THREE WOMEN EXPERTS, THOUGH THESE ARE IN TRADITIONAL AREAS: TWO HOME ECONOMISTS AND ONE NURSING ADVISER. UNDP ATTEMPTS TO EMPHASIZE ASPECTS INCLUDING WOMEN AS BENEFICIARIES SUCH AS NUTRITION COMPONENT OF BASIC GRAINS PROJECT. THEY HAVE RECEIVED COPY OF USAID STUDY ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN NICARAGUA ECONOMY.
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